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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/930,373	08/14/2001	Claude R. Gauthier	03226/103001; P6042	9205
32615	7590	08/18/2004	EXAMINER	
OSHA & MAY L.L.P./SUN 1221 MCKINNEY, SUITE 2800 HOUSTON, TX 77010			PERVEEN, REHANA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2116	

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/930,373

Applicant(s)

GAUTHIER ET AL.

Examiner

Rehana Perveen

Art Unit

2116

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bosshart, Patent No. 6,246,266, in view of Yamaguchi et al, Patent No. 4,421,614.

As to claims 1 and 10, Bosshart teaches determining when power consumption by an integrated circuit (dynamic logic circuit 16, abstract) needs to be reduced, and gradually reducing an amount of current sourced by a power supply based on the determination (abstract and col. 10 lines 13-65).

Bosshart does not expressly teach the gradually reducing the current amount comprises sequentially switching a plurality of devices connected to the power supply.

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However, it has been quite well known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to provide such sequential switching of a plurality of devices connected to a power supply to gradually reducing an amount of current (see Yamaguchi et al, col. 3 lines 14-26 and col. 6 lines 30-45). The prior existing art also provides the benefits and advantages of such way of gradual reduction.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of Bosshart and Yamaguchi et al because both are commonly directed to gradually reduce an amount of current passing through and Yamaguchi et al's sequential switching to achieve the goal would have enabled further gradual reduction of the current amount in Bosshart's system.

As to claims 2, 5, 11, and 13, Bosshart teaches selectively disabling a first transistor based on the determination, wherein disabling the first transistor causes a reduction in an amount of current sourced from a power supply, selectively disabling a second transistor based on the determination, wherein disabling the second transistor causes a reduction in the amount of current sourced from the power supply, and selectively disabling a last transistor based on the determination, wherein disabling the last transistor causes a reduction in the amount of current sourced from the power supply (power down mode, col. 10 lines 13-65).

As to claims 3, 6, 12, and 14, Bosshart teaches selectively generating a signal to a counter stage, wherein the counter stage generates a first signal to the first transistor, a second signal to the second transistor, and a last signal to the last transistor (inherent in the determination process, col. 10 lines 13-32).

As to claims 4 and 7, Bosshart teaches the counter stage comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of a finite state machine and a counter (inherent in the process of determination, col. 10 lines 13-32).

As to claims 8 and 15, Bosshart teaches selectively enabling the first, the second, and the last transistors when power consumption does not need to be reduced (col. 11 line 54 – col. 12 line 17).

As to claim 9, Bosshart teaches the first, the second, and the last transistor can each be one selected from the group consisting of a p-type transistor and a n-type transistor (col. 13 lines 14-27).

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

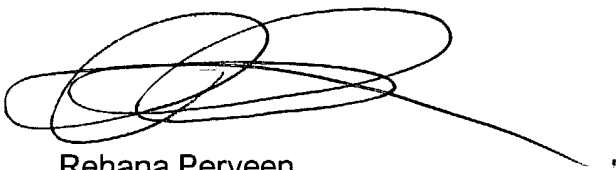
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rehana Perveen whose telephone number is 571-272-3676. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H Browne can be reached on 571-272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rehana Perveen  
Primary Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2100